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CS Historical Paper

No. 34

# CLANDESTINE SERVICES HISTORY

(TITLE OF PAPER)  
SOUTHEAST ASIA COMMUNICATIONS  
ACTIVITY (SEACA) AND ITS

(PERIOD)  
1951 - 1964

## DO NOT DESTROY

Controlled by : O/Communications

Date prepared : 1964

Written by

et al.

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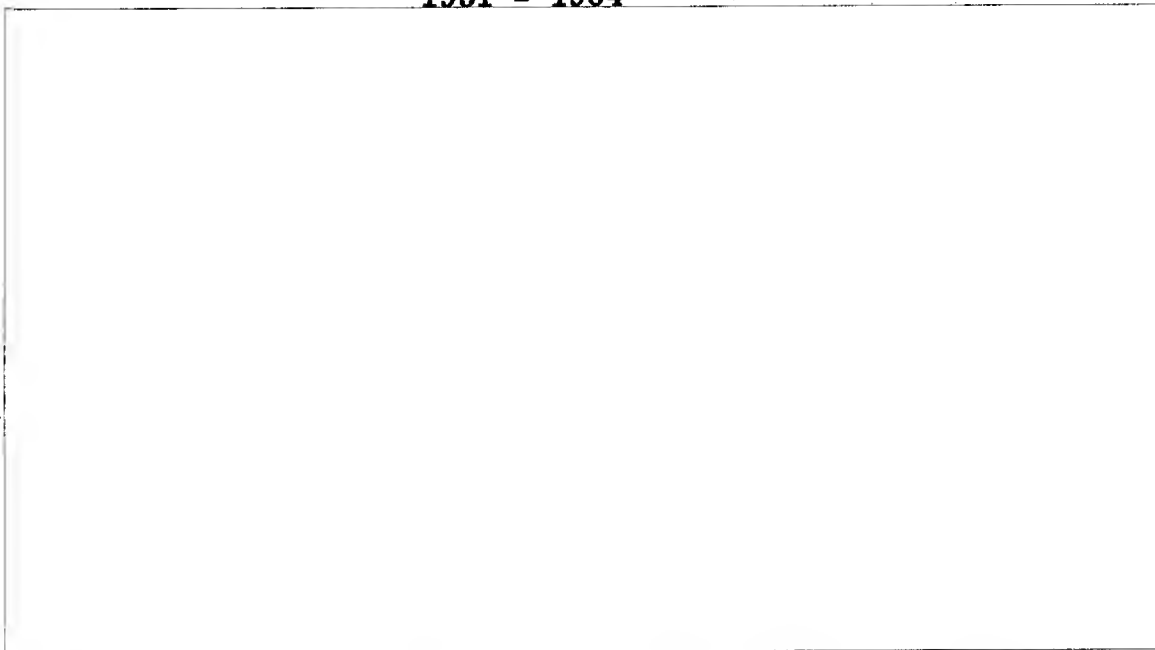
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**SOUTHEAST ASIA COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITY (SEACA)**



**1951 - 1964**



**Controlled by: Office of  
Communications**

**Date prepared: 1964**

**Written by :                       
et al.**

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25X1

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SEACA [REDACTED]

1951 - 1964

## A. INTRODUCTION

The Agency's first communications support of [REDACTED] was furnished in late 1950 in the form of a single radio circuit between [REDACTED] Base, although general communications support of Southeast Asia was not inaugurated formally until early 1951. In February 1951, [REDACTED] arrived [REDACTED] and assumed his duties as the first chief of the Southeast Asia Communications Activity (SEACA). [REDACTED] tour of duty, as indicated in his report, was devoted to planning and developing a staff communications network connecting the key cities of Southeast Asia with the first base station established in [REDACTED] radio circuits were among the most active and most important because of the rapidly deteriorating situation [REDACTED] increasing U. S. interest in that area.

1. Early Days of SEACA

Very little clandestine communications support was provided during these early days of SEACA and the service provided remained

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25X1 primarily a staff communications service handling Agency,  
25X1 [redacted]

25X1 In March 1953, [redacted] arrived [redacted]

25X1 to assume duties as Chief, SEACA, succeeding [redacted] the  
25X1 following month. During [redacted] tour of duty, the SEACA  
staff was gradually enlarged and the communications service was  
extended. Early in 1953 communications equipment was stored in

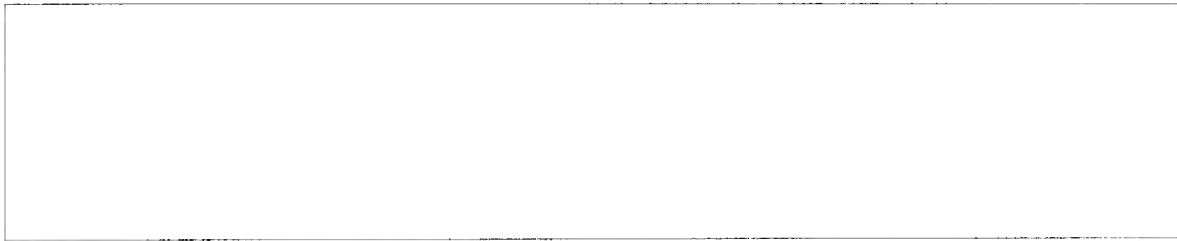
25X1 [redacted] against a day when service would be  
25X1 inaugurated from those principal cities [redacted]

25X1 By late 1954 both [redacted] actively entered the  
25X1 SEACA network. Communications were established with [redacted]

25X1 [redacted]

## 2. First Communications Support of Clandestine Activity

25X1 During [redacted] tour of duty, most of which was in  
25X1 support of the Agency [redacted], we saw the first communi-  
cations support of clandestine activity and the inauguration of an  
emergency communications network encompassing all the above  
25X1 stations [redacted]  
25X1 [redacted]



3. Developments in SEACA after 1955

25X1 [redacted] was succeeded by [redacted] who 25X1  
25X1 arrived [redacted] in June 1955. When [redacted] took over in  
mid-1955, the SEACA staff consisted of a chief, a deputy chief, a  
secretary, a junior operations officer, a junior engineering officer,  
and two security officers. The base station was manned by approxi-  
mately [redacted] radio operators at the receiving site with [redacted] technicians 25X1  
serving at the transmitter site and doubling as repairmen (base  
station and area) as well as supply and warehousemen. The tempo  
of activity and the attendant traffic load zoomed upward, and it  
became obvious that SEACA would soon be one of the busiest, if not  
the most active, communications activities in the world. Crises  
occurred throughout the area and no country in the area escaped.  
Strangely enough, despite its occasional flare ups, such as the wars  
of the religious sects [redacted] enjoyed a period of relative stability  
from 1955 to 1957. There was considerable operational activity,  
[redacted]



but from the communications standpoint, it could not compare at this time to the activity elsewhere in the area.

4. Laying of Foundations for SEACA's Great Expansion

The period 1955 to 1957 was one of transition. Recognizing the explosive political situation in the area, the SEACA staff concentrated on plans to prepare communications facilities and augment the various communications station staffs to meet the ever-increasing workload. The site for the existing major relay station

25X1 [redacted] which services all of Southeast Asia, was found after an exhaustive search of available sites in the area.

25X1 Plans were made, agreements drawn up, and Headquarters approval requested during this period. By the close of [redacted] tour, SEACA had a full headquarters complement, complete with senior operations, security, engineering, supply, and administrative officers. The foundations had been laid for the great expansion period which was to follow from 1958 until 1964.

25X1 5. Acceleration of Growth of SEACA Begun in 1955 to 1957

[redacted] arrived [redacted] in June 1957 and assumed the duties of Chief, SEACA, at the end of that month. He was to serve in this capacity for four years. The growth which

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began during the 1955-1957 period accelerated during Mr.

25X1 [ ] tenure. Although support of [ ] operations  
25X1 was dwarfed by SEACA's support elsewhere, the training of  
25X1 [ ] in particular was an extensive effort during  
this period. By 1961 several active operations requiring communi-  
cations support had been mounted and were in full swing. Early in  
1959, the SEACA base facility was moved into its new modern  
25X1 plant at [ ], and the move came none too soon.  
Traffic volume had soared. Operational activity in the area was  
25X1 at an all-time high and the old facility [ ] was about to be  
inundated by a traffic load with which it could cope no longer.  
Gradually the circuits, both staff and clandestine, including those  
25X1 in support of [ ] activity, were put under control of the  
25X1 relay station [ ] A new era in rapid, secure communications  
had begun, but the volume continued to increase until even the new  
25X1 facility [ ] proved inadequate. Plans were drawn to expand  
the new facility almost before the concrete had hardened.

6. Office of Communications' Largest and Most Active Area

25X1 When [ ] arrived on the scene to take over  
25X1 from [ ] in July 1961, he assumed command of the

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Office of Communications' (OC) largest and most active area.

The old SEACA hands, who had founded the facilities of the area and then arrived year by year to plan and work on an ever-expanding activity, would scarcely recognize their old area, from its shining new headquarters office building [redacted]

to its many new facilities in the field, including newly engineered facilities at all the stations in what used [redacted]

[redacted] The area now stretched from [redacted]

[redacted] The observation made by [redacted] that "In a constant crisis station such [redacted] we too frequently find ourselves involved in excessive TDY over an extended period of time to support an abnormal situation which becomes normal." This complaint is echoed by his predecessors and underscores the aptness of the old saying often mentioned to old SEACA hands [redacted]

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B. DEVELOPMENTS UNDER SEACA'S FIRST CHIEF, [REDACTED] 1951-1953

1. Initial Efforts towards Establishment of SEACA

In 1950, discussions were held with representatives of the [REDACTED] concerning the necessity for [REDACTED] and the feasibility of establishing a radio network in Southeast Asia.

In the fall of 1950, it was generally agreed that a radio network, patterned after the Middle East Communications Activity, would be created in Southeast Asia with headquarters [REDACTED]

Plans were made, personnel and equipment were selected. Before personnel and equipment could be moved to the field, however, an urgent requirement arose to provide a U.S. Government radio circuit [REDACTED] was selected for this assignment. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] He took with him the necessary communications equipment, including receivers and transmitters, in order to establish a radio circuit.

At the same time, [REDACTED] communications operations officer, was sent to [REDACTED] borrowed [REDACTED] equipment and established a radio circuit with [REDACTED]

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25X1 [ ] Beginning in December 1950, additional

25X1 personnel and equipment were flown to [ ] and a

25X1 small radio base station was established in [ ]

25X1 A manual radio circuit [ ] was operated for about three

25X1 months until the [ ]

opened a relatively large radio teletype station in the outskirts of [ ]

25X1 [ ] Because of this, coupled with the political situation, Mr.

25X1 [ ] and his equipment were moved [ ] where he estab-

25X1 lished a manual radio circuit to [ ] radio base.

25X1 2. The [ ] Radio Circuit

25X1 The [ ] circuit was a very dependable, high

quality wireless communications (CW) circuit. The Agency radio

25X1 stations provided a transmission facility [ ]

25X1 [ ] Agent radio

25X1 gear, ciphers, and procedure documents were shipped [ ]

25X1 [ ] in 1952. (However, [ ] was of the opinion that

these sets were not used operationally.) Radiophones had been

25X1 installed [ ] in December 1950, but these voice

circuits were never completely satisfactory, primarily because of

the quality of the receiver component. However, they were availa-

25X1 ble for [ ] purposes.

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C. CONTINUED GROWTH OF SEACA -- 1953-1955 .

1. Reopening of a Wireless Communications Station

In March 1953, SEACA had an active CW station at the

working into the base station. The station was manned by a communications technician/cryptography/radio (CT/C/R).

Radio backup equipment was stored The SEACA Headquarters staff numbered persons assigned as follows:

Two projects had been activated.

Five RS-1 packed by the SEACA staff, were in for the northern Twenty RSK agent sets obtained from the Asian Communications Activity (ASCA) and supporting equipment were shipped for use with a parallel operation. During the remainder of 1953, operations accounted for approximately 80% of SEACA's operational activity. In October 1953, a CW station was again activated

It was manned by a CT/R assigned TDY from as was the station

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25X1 2. Opening of a CW Station [redacted]

In January 1954, packaged CW stations were shipped to

25X1 [redacted] At the same time,

25X1 [redacted] CT/R's were processed for TDY to these posts and  
25X1 placed in a stand-by status. A PCS CT/R arrived [redacted] in  
25X1 February. The SEACA base transmitting and receiving facilities  
were improved and enlarged during the period January through  
( April. At the same time, the increased signal planning activity  
required that the photo lab be tripled in size.

25X1 By May 1954, the tempo of activity [redacted] had  
25X1 increased greatly. The [redacted] CW station had been activated  
25X1 part time. An additional CT/R was assigned TDY [redacted] A  
25X1 lateral [redacted] CW link was activated. The [redacted] base  
station began to operate 24-hours a day. SEACA's traffic for May  
totaled 730,000 groups, an increase of 100% over the previous  
May. The base was working/monitoring several agent plans in  
25X1 addition to test, training, and broadcast schedules. [redacted]

ILLEGIB [redacted] and a second packet station were prepared and  
25X1 shipped [redacted] The TDY support given the [redacted] area,

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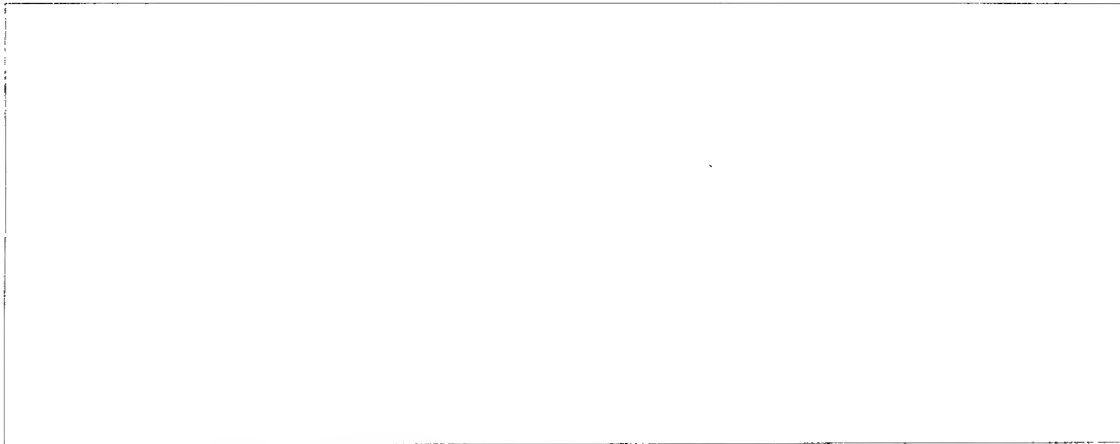
and increased activity at the base station, required the assignment of four TDY CT/R's to the base station. These men were supplied by ASCA.

25X1 The period from June through August 1954 was characterized by a steady increase in activity [redacted] A number of agents were equipped and mounted. Even larger numbers were being trained. Equipment to augment the field radio stations was shipped and installed. In addition to the normal emergency communications plan for each station, Mackay voice transceivers had been installed [redacted]

25X1 use if air evacuation became necessary. All military or agency attributable radio equipment [redacted] was replaced with commercial units. In addition, all sensitive Commo, FE, and PM material was removed from the station. [redacted]



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In October 1954, a package CW station was activated in



It was initially staffed by [redacted] CT/R's. During this

period, additional RS-1 [redacted] were prepared and

shipped [redacted] The increasing operational activity required

the enlargement of the [redacted] communications station. A station

was laid out in the [redacted] then under construction.



within the area. In September, the SEACA traffic totaled

1,028,000 groups. [redacted] total of 231,000 groups equalled that

of the entire area 20 months earlier. In November the [redacted]

station opened with a group count of 6,500 for the first month.



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25X1 The year ended in a flurry of training, signal planning, and  
25X1 preparations [redacted] operation was to furnish  
[redacted] radio operators for duty in [redacted] 25X1

4. Domination of Indo-China Staff and Agent Communications

25X1 By January 1955, the [redacted] staff and agent communi-  
cations dominated the base station. The normal weekend and Sunday  
25X1 lulls in traffic had disappeared. [redacted] traffic reached  
85,000 groups (outgoing) and a second CT/R and teletype equip-  
25X1 ment were sent in. A package station [redacted] was serviced  
25X1 by a TDY operator when necessary. Each of [redacted] stations  
and the base had been enlarged at least once in the previous year.  
It was necessary to again enlarge the base transmitter facility by  
50%. This was completed in March. Seven CT/R's and training  
25X1 personnel were on TDY [redacted] Agent wireless technicians  
25X1 (W/T's) were being trained [redacted]  
25X1 [redacted]

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25X1 [redacted] The operational  
25X1 emphasis was then transferred [redacted] its CW station having  
25X1 been opened in April full time. Additional CT/R's and equipment  
25X1 were sent [redacted] in June after the May traffic had totaled  
25X1 106,000 groups. July traffic for the area was 1,350,000 groups;  
25X1 about half concerned [redacted]

#### 5. Personnel Statistics

25X1 In July 1955, SEACA Headquarters staff numbered [redacted]  
25X1 augmented by one to two TDY CT/R's. [redacted] staff personnel had  
25X1 spent approximately seven man years TDY [redacted] during  
25X1 1953 and 1955; Headquarters communications personnel had spent  
25X1 approximately two and a half man years TDY [redacted] and  
25X1 ASCA and Headquarters personnel had spent approximately four  
ILLEGIB [redacted]  
ILLEGIB man years TDY at SEACA Headquarters.  
[redacted]

25X1

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**D. SEACA'S RAPID EXPANSION - 1955 TO 1957**  
(SEACA CHIEF, [REDACTED])

**1. Emergence of Difficulties and Problems in Mid-1955**

In June 1955, SEACA's responsibility was to provide communications support [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] As mentioned above, SEACA Headquarters was staffed by about [REDACTED] people: [REDACTED] located in the [REDACTED] of the [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] CT/R's and [REDACTED] CT/C's in the [REDACTED] where they manned the radio receivers and the signal center.

The HT-4, 300-watt transmitters were located at the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] They were controlled from the receiving location [REDACTED] via landlines leased from the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] In these early days, operations were constantly plagued by breakdowns. The transmitters were located in a quonset hut; temperature and humidity were constant enemies. These were the days, prior to the use of air conditioning throughout Southeast Asia, when temperatures exceeding 120° with humidities in the 90% range caused innumerable breakdowns.

Landline control circuits were another source of worry, shorting out whenever there was a heavy rainfall. Antenna facilities were extremely restricted. Nine radio circuits were being operated throughout Southeast Asia with antennas limited to about a 200 foot square area.

2. Problems Leading to Recommendation to Move Station Facilities

25X1 The fact that transmitting facilities were located in a [redacted] became of increasing concern  
25X1 [redacted] and the increasing probability of interference with this service. These factors coupled with the rapid growth of communications requirements within the area, led to the preparation of a staff study in July 1956 recommending that the station facilities, both transmitting and receiving, be moved [redacted] This recommendation was approved by Headquarters and construction of the new facility was begun in January 1959.

3. Problems in Transporting Communications Equipment

25X1 Transportation of communications supplies to support [redacted] and others in the area was a continuing problem.

25X1 The "supply" facility [ ] consisted originally of about one  
25X1 half of the [ ] quonset housing the transmitters. With no  
career supply officer or assistant available, one of the technical  
personnel had to be assigned to handle these duties. As a result,  
the supply system was conducted on a hand-to-mouth basis. Area  
supplies were obtained primarily from Headquarters with an  
occasional assist from ASCA. While efforts were made to antici-  
pate area requirements, more often than not these efforts failed  
and it became necessary to "make do" by substituting or modifying  
25X1 equipment that was available. Small parts, pouched [ ]  
25X1 [ ] channel, arrived within four or five days. When a  
major item of equipment was involved, however, such as an HT-4  
transmitter, it had to be shipped by sea and usually required a  
minimum of three to four weeks, if all went well. In consequence,  
25X1 even when there was a major breakdown of equipment [ ] an  
electronic technician with repair parts was sent in the hope that he  
could make the repair and bring about a resumption of operations to  
last until the spare unit arrived quite a while later. [ ]  
[ ]

4. Gradual Improvements in Supply Situation

During 1956 the problems of supply were gradually being solved: Headquarters assigned a supply officer to SEACA; stock control records were established; and ordering supplies from Headquarters and ASCA was accomplished in a planned manner. With the inception of financial property accounting (FPA) procedures in the middle of 1957, SEACA supply became an orderly and efficient operation.

5. Transportation Problems

Intra-area transportation problems had improved very little during this period and were still a cause of concern. Senior SEACA personnel [ ] about eight to nine times a year. It was difficult to make a complete tour of SEACA sub-base stations because of the transportation problems. A complete tour required over three weeks on the road, spending the minimum possible time at each of the stations. As a consequence, senior personnel usually visited a few stations per trip, quite often at the request of the Chief of Station (COS), to aid in some common problem or crisis. On one occasion it was necessary to summarily relieve one of our operators [ ] and fly out a relief man from [ ]

6. Extent of Operations in Mid-1955

In mid-1955 SEACA operated a CW, Morse circuit to

[ ] as well as CW circuits to [ ]

[ ] at this time, was being serviced by [ ]

[ ] Cables from [ ]

[ ] were couriered to [ ] or transmission to

[ ] Liaison operators were supplied from ASCA Head-

quarters [ ]

In the latter part of

1955, SEACA's first radioteletype circuit was established between

[ ] The receiving

and transmitting facilities at the [ ] end of the circuit

were leased from [ ] This

circuit supplanted use of [ ]

The only direct circuit to the "outside world" was an unclassified teletype circuit via landline, backed up by VHF radio,

[ ] There it entered the [ ]

[ ] for HF radio transmission

to Agency Headquarters in Washington. In addition to these

"active" circuits, CW [ ] stations were installed in certain



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25X1 sensitive countries [ ] In this case,  
although it required about seven days to get an answer to a  
message filed via commercial facilities regardless of priority,  
25X1 the [ ] was not permitted to be operated except for short  
test periods for reasons of security.

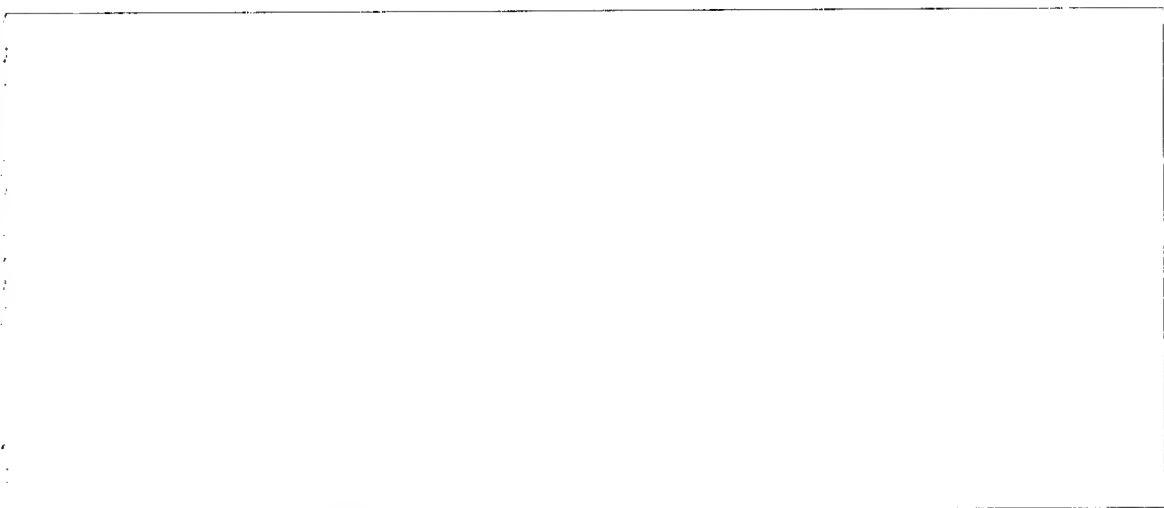
7. Personnel, Housing, and Morale

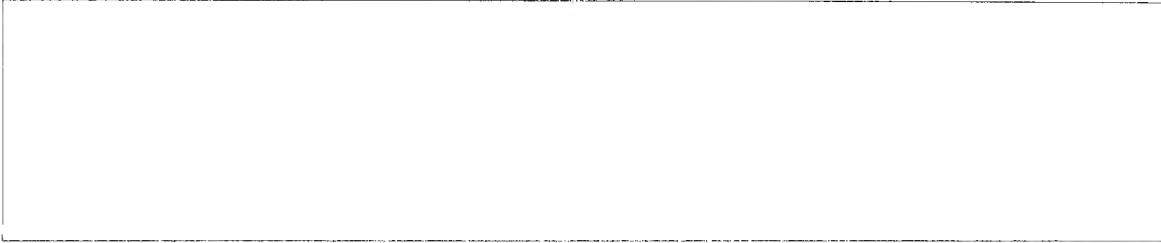
25X1 The personnel situation in SEACA during this period  
was most interesting. With the exception [ ]  
25X1 [ ] married personnel were assigned only  
25X1 to the [ ] complex. [ ] and the other sub-base stations,  
were manned by a combination of [ ] single CT/R, 25X1  
CT/C's. Living conditions and housing varied from good in  
25X1 [ ] to very poor in the majority  
25X1 of the sub-bases. In 1955 the operators [ ] shared an old  
house but by 1957 they had moved into fairly modern private  
25X1 apartments. Probably the worst conditions existed [ ]  
25X1 [ ] where the operators actually lived in a bush house and used  
a 5-KW generator for light and cooking. Under these conditions,  
field personnel were prone to sickness which all too often required

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25X1 medical evacuation to [ ] or elsewhere for  
treatment. When this occurred a relief operator had to be sent  
25X1 out TDY [ ] and while the original estimate might  
have been for 15 to 20 days, it most often extended from 45 to  
60 days. These extended TDY's resulted in many comments by  
25X1 the wives left behind [ ] comments which were not often  
complimentary. Nevertheless, morale remained surprisingly  
high and the training and experience gained by the personnel  
proved to be invaluable in later years. Many of these people were  
to form the nucleus of experienced personnel so necessary to the  
expansion in the coming years of the communications facilities  
throughout the world.

25X1





25X1  
9. Space Problems [redacted]

25X1 In mid-1955 [redacted] communications station, CW  
Radio and Signal Center, was located in a small room on the  
25X1 [redacted] The  
25X1 main radio transmitter, an HT-4, was located [redacted]  
25X1 [redacted] around the corner and controlled from [redacted] by a  
landline cable strung along the sides of buildings where it was  
exposed and subject to sabotage and breakdown. The transmitter  
itself was located in a broom closet where it repeatedly broke  
down because of the excessive heat. As a consequence, the low-  
25X1 powered RT-1B alternate transmitter located [redacted] was  
often used. Emergency power was provided by two small gasoline  
25X1 generators, one at each location. The radio circuit [redacted]  
operated about 12 hours during week-days and as many hours as  
necessary to handle all traffic on Saturdays and Sundays. A long  
25X1 struggle ensued embracing many discussions with [redacted]  
[redacted]

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25X1 [redacted] in an effort to get additional space in the  
25X1 [redacted] proper for the HT-4 transmitter. Operators were  
25X1 handling [redacted] but often were  
25X1 called upon to handle [redacted] since these circuits were  
unreliable. The process of handling classified messages by CW  
was very tedious and time consuming.

25X1 10. Increase in Message Volume and New Equipment for  
[redacted]

25X1 By the middle of 1956, radio teletype equipment was  
25X1 becoming available in SEACA and [redacted] message volume had  
increased to the point where it could no longer be handled by CW.  
25X1 As a result [redacted] was scheduled to receive the new equipment  
at this time. Space for the equipment was still at a premium and  
25X1 after more discussion with the [redacted] the operating  
room was enlarged to accommodate the new teletype and one-time-  
25X1 tape (OTT) encrypting equipment. Space for the two HT-4 trans-  
mitters could not be found [redacted] so they were  
installed in the elevator machinery penthouse on the roof. An  
emergency power generator was installed adjacent to the elevator  
shaft in the patio.

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11. Installation of Communications Equipment in the

[redacted]

In late 1956, the [redacted] had increased its staff

to the point where it was necessary to set up a CW circuit using  
RT-1B transmitters and the old OTT encrypting system between

[redacted] The encryption and CW trans-

[redacted]

12. Office of Communications' Responsibility in Training of Agents

Prior to 1950 all communications training in the Far

East for agents [redacted] was conducted according  
to individual station needs on site. While this method of training  
was satisfactory for a limited number of agents, it did have its  
drawbacks, especially from the security point of view. By the

[redacted]

it was deemed advisable to establish a centralized Agency training  
site. [redacted] was selected for this purpose. The Office of Communi-  
cations/ASCA was given the responsibility of:

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a. Developing a training facility and course of instruction to meet the stated objectives of providing students with techniques and skills necessary to succeed as clandestine communications operators.

b. Establishing a secure staff communications facility [ ] to provide an outlet to other Agency stations through the ASCA relay station [ ]

The basic course was established at 14 weeks and included: sending and receiving Morse code, radio operating procedures, clandestine radio equipment operation and field maintenance, use of signal plans and cryptographic systems, and personal and communications security. Tradecraft, while not a part of the basic course, was often an added item. The instruction was divided into three parts: classroom, reduced distance training during field exercises

[ ] followed by graduate exercises involving long distance training in which OC base stations [ ] participated. [ ]

25X1  
25X1  
25X1  
25X1  
25X1  
25X1  
[redacted] was assigned to [redacted]  
station as [redacted] training officer around the latter part of  
1955 and handled clandestine training requirements [redacted]  
prior to the establishment [redacted] as a training base. Specific  
projects in support of clandestine training [redacted] were:

25X1  
25X1  
25X1  
25X1  
25X1  
25X1  
(The original training of this agent was done by [redacted]  
during 1956. [redacted] mastered the Morse code and learned  
to operate the RS-6 agent radio set, Morris set up a training  
circuit between his apartment and the safe house. Later on, as  
[redacted] a more realistic training circuit was  
established between the safe house and the SEACA base station in

25X1  
25X1  
25X1  
25X1  
25X1  
25X1  
Additional training was provided for this agent [redacted]  
during the period May/August 1957.)

25X1  
25X1  
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25X1  
To assist the [redacted] station in develop-  
ment of U/W assets to be used in support  
of the military in time of hot war.

25X1  
25X1  
25X1  
25X1  
25X1  
25X1  
(The initial training under this project was done [redacted] in early  
1957 and was limited to the Chief and Deputy Chief of this

25X1 [redacted] Later [redacted] U/W organizers  
received the complete course. They were followed by [redacted] radio  
operators:.)

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[redacted] To train [redacted] agents in the skills  
necessary to enable them to act as  
covert W/T operators in support of the  
military in a hot war situation and to  
enable them to operate under varying  
terrain conditions from urban-delta to  
mountainous-remote.

25X1 (This project was established in the latter part of 1957 and was  
essentially a continuation of the [redacted] trained a  
25X1 group of [redacted] operators in Morse code in  
25X1 [redacted] during the latter part of 1958 and then accompanied them  
[redacted] for additional training in February 1959. This group  
25X1 completed training and returned [redacted] 1 June 1959. Another  
group of [redacted] students graduated 20 April 1960.)

25X1 13. Summary Comments by [redacted]

The two years I spent as Chief, SEACA, from mid-1955  
to mid-1957 were stimulating, challenging and instructive. This



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was the period when we had a foothold on providing communications throughout the vast Southeast Asia (SEA) region. We had the opportunity not only to improve the existing facilities and services, but to lay the groundwork for the expansion that was bound to follow. Even in those days, we were never sure how long we would retain control over some of our sub-base stations. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] In the beginning we had to rely on the slow OTT encryption system and the slow CW circuits between our sub-bases and base station [REDACTED] We grew, along with the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] throughout the area and improved both the speed and reliability of our circuits to meet the increasing volume and importance of the cables we were required to handle. We saw the communications supply facility [REDACTED] progress from a hit-or-miss type operation, to a smoothly running, well managed section. We saw plans made and approved for the expansion and modernization of our base station [REDACTED] Most important of all, we saw improved relations and teamwork between ourselves [REDACTED] [REDACTED] colleagues. We had a continuing struggle to obtain operating space in the various

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Concurrently with these clandestine activities, SEACA in the period 1957-1961, gave continuing attention to upgrading the OC facilities [redacted] radio installations and emergency power facilities were improved and expanded. The

emergency voice network saw the single-sideband SSB-1 equipment installed to replace the venerable

Mackay equipment. [ ] the local VHF voice emergency network was similarly improved. Every effort was made to stay ahead of or at least abreast of, increasing commo staff, training and operational workloads. [ ] itself did not always

have full appreciation of the impact of its planning and operations upon communications, and consequently considerable TDY assistance to [ ] was a continuing routine. A sizeable close support team was added to [ ] during this period, also.

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5. Base Station Support

There are two basic sub-categories involved here:

(1) OC base station support and (2) [redacted] base station support.

Generally the more sensitive, difficult, sophisticated and usually long-range base support is provided by an OC installation.

[redacted] base support is characterized by less sophisticated but far greater in number CW circuits in support of para-military activities. There is, of course, a proper place for both types of

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25X1 support and OC has successfully rendered to Caesar that which  
25X1 is Caesar's in these matters. As the record will reflect, OC  
25X1 can point with considerable pride to the astounding number of  
25X1 OTT groups handled by low-powered, inexpensive, and very  
25X1 simply configured [redacted]  
[redacted] At its height, the [redacted] communi-  
cations base was handling over 300,000 groups of OTT traffic  
25X1 monthly in support of approximately [redacted] OC is  
25X1 proud of this [redacted] base contribution and recalls that two years  
ago, it was faced with having a number of small bases supporting  
a handful of field teams or consolidating in one reasonably decent  
25X1 facility [redacted] The decision to  
consolidate at that time has proven valid many times since. OC  
has provided better communications support at less expense and  
with fewer people than would ever have been possible with  
several smaller stations. Also, it is obvious that the built-in  
limitations of the OC staff would not have permitted the main-  
25X1 tainance of even a modicum of supervision over several [redacted]  
base set-ups. So long as the Agency participates in fairly large

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scale para-military type programs, OC will have a requirement



6. Staff Communications

In a constant crisis situation the Agency too often finds itself involved in excessive TDY over an extended period of time to support an abnormal situation which becomes normal. In other words, it is necessary to staff fully any communications station supporting high volumes of critically important traffic on a continuing basis. This has been the story [redacted] and luckily, in fact, SEACA built up its staff and retained it at a higher than normal level during the past two years. On the other hand, SEACA failed to staff fully [redacted] at the same time with the result that there has been at least one man year of TDY help [redacted] for over two years.

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